Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act Takes Effect After Twenty Years of Effort

Blind pedestrians travel safely every day relying on sound cues. When electric and hybrid cars first emerged, the National Federation of the Blind recognized that truly quiet vehicles posed a danger to all pedestrians and bike riders, and that the lack of sound posed a special danger to blind people. Twenty years ago we began work on the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act which was signed into law by President Obama. The law gave manufacturers time to comply and regulations were promulgated with input from stakeholders. Finally, all hybrid and electric vehicles manufactured on or after March 1, 2021 must emit a safe level of sound while stationary, in reverse, and moving up to thirty kilometers per hour thanks to the collective efforts of the National Federation of the Blind.